*Lab activity*

*The Spread of Disease*

In this activity, you will witness the ease with which a disease-causing organism

can spread from person to person. Each student will be given an eyedropper and

a single numbered test tube containing a clear liquid that will represent their

“bodily fluids.” In this case, one student’s sample has been secretly “infected”

with a clear, colourless, and odourless chemical.

1. At the direction of your teacher, you will randomly seek out another student

and each exchange one eyedropper of liquid from each other’s test tube.

(a) Create a data table to record the name and the corresponding test-tube

number of the person you exchanged fluids with.

2. Perform this exchange at least three or four more times.

3. Make sure to update your data table each time you exchange fluids.

4. After all students have completed their exchanges, your teacher will use a

special test solution to see if you have been “infected.”

(b) How many students in your class became infected?

(c) How do the results of this activity model infections in real life?

(d) What human activities could the exchanging of liquids with the eyedropper

represent?

The chemical used in this activity to model the infectious agent is mildly

corrosive. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Wear eye protection and

gloves when carrying the test tube.

Be careful with any spills.